

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:PKBULLEN:PDW

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

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NEA/ARN:ARDBAY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, XF, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE CRISIS

REF: JIDDA 6949

1. REQUEST YOU AGAIN APPROACH SAG AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE
LEVEL TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE ON LEBANESE CRISIS. YOU MAY SAY
THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT LEBANESE SITUA-
TION, AS WE EXPECT THEY ARE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF ESCALA-
TION OF FIGHTING DURING PAST WEEK. WE ARE NOT AT ALL SURE
THAT LATEST CEASEFIRE EFFORT WILL BEAR FRUIT, AND RECOGNIZE
THAT POLITICAL PROGRESS WITHIN LEBANON WILL BE NEEDED IN

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ORDER TO BEGIN TO MOVE LEBANON BACK TOWARD STABILITY.

2. TELL SAUDIS WE ARE INTERESTED IN ANY IDEAS AS TO HOW ANY OF US MIGHT HELP. IN PARTICULAR DO THE SAUDIS SEE ANYTHING OF POLITICAL NATURE THAT THEY OR ANY OTHER PARTY COULD DO TO HELP STABILIZE THE SITUATION AND MOVE LEBANON TOWARD PEACE? (WE ARE NOT THINKING OF INTER-ARAB FORCE MENTIONED BY PRINCE SAUD IN REFTEL.)

3. YOU MAY SHARE FOLLOWING AS OUR VIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION IN LEBANON: FIGHTING OF RECENT WEEK MORE INTENSE THAN

PREVIOUSLY; APPARENTLY REFLECTED CONFLICT BETWEEN CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM FORCES OVER TERRITORY THAT HAS HITHERTO BEEN, IN EFFECT, NEUTRAL GROUND--INTERNATIONAL AREA OF LARGE HOTELS, EMBASSIES, ETC. THERE WERE DIS-QUIETING INDICATIONS THAT FATAH AND SAIQA FORCES PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY ON MOSLEM SIDE DURING AT LEAST PART OF THIS ACTION. PRESENT CEASEFIRE--EVEN IF IT HOLDS--WILL PROBABLY BRING ONLY BRIEF RESPITE. TENSION IS HIGH, ALL FACTIONS ARE POISED TO FIGHT ANEW, AND IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE MINOR INCIDENTS COULD SPARK SERIOUS NEW OUTBREAKS. SO RENEWED FIGHTING IS TO BE PREDICTED, AND THAT RISKS LEADING TO A LARGER CONFLAGRATION. IN SHORT RUN AN ESSENTIAL STEP TO REDUCE LEVEL OF FIGHTING AND HENCE RISK WOULD BE TO HALT FLOW OF FUNDS AND ARMS SUPPLIES, WHICH ARE FUELING FIGHTING. THIS APPEARS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TIME TO REACH FUNDAMENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND COMPROMISES NEEDED WITHIN LEBANON. KISSINGER

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